

Chapel Hill Carrboro
Chamber
OF COMMERCE

104 S. ESTES DRIVE • POST OFFICE BOX 2897
CHAPEL HILL, NC 27515-2897

*#6
Town Clerk's Copy
add'l info*

May 24, 2004

Mayor Kevin Foy and Chapel Hill Town Council
Town Hall
306 N. Columbia St.
Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514

Dear Mayor Foy and Council members:

We thank you for taking additional public comment on the proposal to rename Airport Road after Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. It is high time this community honored Dr. King for the many contributions he has made to American society as a whole and to each of us as citizens.

The Chamber Board has adopted a position on the renaming after extensive debate in the Chamber's Government Relations Committee.

- The Chamber Board of Directors unanimously supports naming a public facility in Chapel Hill after Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. no later than the end of September, 2004.
- The choice of that facility should be determined by broad community discussion.
- The Chamber Staff and Board desire continued discussions with the local chapter of the NAACP, the Town Council, and others interested in honoring Dr. King to build consensus support for a public facility to be named for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
- If no other alternatives arise, the Chamber Board supports renaming Airport Road for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to recognize the importance of his contributions to America.
- If a road is named for Dr. King then the Chamber proposes that a period of no longer than 18 months and no shorter than 12 months be allowed before the official name change takes place to help mitigate the impact on the residents and businesses on that road.

That said, we would be remiss in our duty to our current members if we did not represent their concerns to the Town Council. A few of those members have suggested other alternatives to the renaming of Airport Road, which we feel should be discussed more broadly. If the Council could extend their decision through the summer and conduct facilitated community discussion, the Chamber would be pleased to participate and bring our members to the table.

Dr. King's legacy requires each of us to listen to each other with open minds and open hearts and to conduct ourselves and our discussions in a civil and respectful manner. The Chamber wants to work with the NAACP and any other interested community groups and the Town Council to ensure that Chapel Hill recognizes Dr. King in the best possible way we know how. Together we can do something we can be proud of as a legacy for our children.

Sincerely,



Aaron Nelson
Executive Director

